

womenLEAD SUMMIT

an annual gathering hosted by the independent women's forum

June 2nd | Washington, D.C.



AGENDA

9:00am
Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30am
Welcome Remarks
Charlotte Hays

9:45am
Views of the Workplace, the Economy, and Regulations from a Female Entrepreneur
Caren Merrick

10:00am
Recognition of the Bradley Foundation
Heather R. Higgins

10:15am
Working for Women: A Modern Agenda for Improving Women's Lives
moderator
Genevieve Wood
panel
Prof. Brian Brenberg
Commissioner Victoria A. Lipnic
Diana Furchgott-Roth
Sabrina Schaeffer

11:15am
Coffee Break

11:30am
SPN Hosted Speed Networking
Meet other like-minded women who share your modern feminist views, can serve as professional mentors, and offer advice on work-life balance

12:00noon
Lunch

12:30pm
Remarks on the Conservative Feminist Movement
Sabrina Schaeffer

12:45pm
Conversation: The Passing of Justice Scalia and the Future of the Supreme Court
moderator
Hadley Heath Manning
panel
Megan Brown
Susan Engel
Erin Hawley

1:45pm
The Character of our Political Leadership: Political Civility, Virtue, and the Impact on Women Voters in the 2016 Election
moderator
Sabrina Schaeffer
panel
Jane Hampton Cook
Mona Charen
James Rosebush
Peter Wehner

2:45pm
Coffee Break and Book Signing in Lobby

3:00pm
(Un)Safe Spaces: IWF Modern Feminists Take On Campus Culture
moderator
Naomi Schaefer Riley
panel
Caroline Kitchens
Patrice Lee Onwuka
Ashe Schow

4:00pm
Coffee Break

4:15pm
LIVE Radio Show with Julie Gunlock and Cam Edwards
Culture of Alarmism: Scaring You Silly
hosted by
Cam Edwards
panel
Commissioner Ann Marie Buerkle
Julie Gunlock
Julie Kelly

5:30pm
Wine Reception

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



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BRIAN BRENBERG
Chair of Business and Finance Program
Associate Professor of Business and Economics
The King's College
@BrianBrenberg

Professor Brian Brenberg teaches classes in business and economics at The King's College. Prior to joining the King's faculty, he held positions in the medical device and financial services industries, as well as public policy research. He earned an MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School and a Master's in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

In addition to his teaching at King's, Professor Brenberg has written for USA Today, Forbes, The Washington Examiner, FOXNews.com, and WORLD Magazine, and has appeared on CNBC, FOX Business Television, FOX News Radio, and The Blaze. He lectures regularly for the Foundation for Economic Education and serves on the faculty advisory council for the American Enterprise Institute's Values and Capitalism project.

He resides in New York City with his wife, Krista, and their three children.



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MEGAN L. BROWN
Partner
Wiley Rein LLP

Megan L. Brown is a partner at Wiley Rein LLP. She has significant litigation, appellate and regulatory experience before state and federal courts and agencies across the country.

Ms. Brown has developed particular expertise helping businesses respond to federal, state and local regulation raising constitutional, administrative law and statutory issues. She litigates and counsels clients on complex legal issues involving federal preemption and the reach of government power. From motions practice to appellate briefing, Ms. Brown represents corporations in all phases of complex litigation and develops litigation and compliance strategies under a variety of federal statutes, including the federal Communications Act, the Federal Arbitration Act and the Freedom of Information Act, as well as the U.S. Constitution.

Ms. Brown holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and an A.B. from The College of William & Mary. She is a member of the Maryland Bar and the District of Columbia Bar and is admitted to practice law in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Federal, and District of Columbia Circuits and the Supreme Court of the United States.



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ANN MARIE BUERKLE
Commissioner
U.S. Consumer Product Safety
@AnnMBuerkle

Hon. Ann Marie Buerkle is a Commissioner at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). She was appointed to the agency by President Barack Obama in May of 2013 and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in June 2013. The term expires in October 2018.

Prior to joining the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Buerkle served the people of Upstate New York's 25th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. During her time in Congress, Buerkle served on the Oversight & Government Reform, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. She served as Chair of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. While in Congress, Buerkle was also appointed by President Obama to serve as a United States Representative to the 66th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

While in Congress, Ann Marie strived to work across party lines on policies that would improve the nation's economy, reduce wasteful government spending, provide tax relief to the middle class, and ensure veterans had access to the resources and care that they earned.

Prior to being elected to Congress, Ann Marie worked in a private law firm, and in 1997 was appointed, by then Attorney General Dennis Vacco, as an Assistant New York State Attorney General representing the State of New York on behalf of Upstate Medical University; a role she held for 13 years.

Ann Marie graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1972 and in 1977 she graduated from Le Moyne College with a Bachelor of Science Degree. In 1991, Ann Marie returned to college, this time to earn her law degree. She graduated from Syracuse University College of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1994.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ann Marie has six grown children and fifteen grandkids that inspire her in all that she does.



MONA CHAREN
Senior Fellow
Ethics and Public Policy Center
[@MonaCharenEPPC](#)

Mona Charen is a syndicated columnist and political analyst living in the Washington, D.C. area. She is a Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. She received her undergraduate degree at Barnard College, Columbia University, with honors. Ms. Charen also holds a degree in law from George Washington University.

Ms. Charen began her career at National Review magazine where she served as editorial assistant. On her first tax return at the age of 22, Ms. Charen listed her occupation as “pundit,” explaining later, “You have to think big.” In 1984, Ms. Charen joined the White House staff, serving first as Nancy Reagan’s speechwriter and later as Associate Director of the Office of Public Liaison. In the latter post, she lectured widely on the Administration’s Central America policy. Later in her White House career, she worked in the Public Affairs office helping to craft the President’s communications strategy. In 1986, Ms. Charen left the White House to join the presidential campaign of then-Congressman Jack Kemp as a speechwriter.

Ms. Charen launched her syndicated column in 1987. It is featured in more than 150 newspapers and websites. She spent 6 years as a regular commentator on CNN’s Capital Gang and Capital Gang Sunday, and has served as a judge of the Pulitzer Prizes. She has served as a fellow at the Hudson Institute and the Jewish Policy Center and is the author of two bestsellers: *Useful Idiots: How Liberals Got it Wrong in the Cold War and Still Blame America First* (2003); and *Do-Gooders: How Liberals Harm Those They Claim to Help – and the Rest of Us* (2005). In 2010, she received the Eric Breindel Award for Excellence in Opinion Journalism. Ms. Charen is the co-host, with Jay Nordlinger, of the weekly podcast Need to Know, and is a frequent guest on television and radio public affairs programs.



JANE HAMPTON COOK
National Media Commentator and Author
[@JaneHamptonCook](#)

National media commentator and award-winning author Jane Hampton Cook brings history and biographies to life, making them memorable and relevant to today’s news, current events, politics, issues of faith, and modern-day life. Jane is the author of seven books, including her newest two books, *America’s Star-Spangled Story* (June 14, 2014, Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas) and *American Phoenix* (May 7, 2013, Thomas Nelson).

Jane served former President George W. Bush as a webmaster for five years, including three in the Texas governor’s office and two years in the White House as deputy director of Internet news services. Her enthusiasm for history skyrocketed when she discovered that writing historical stories for whitehouse.gov were among the site’s most popular pages. The experience cemented her decision to passionately pursue US history topics as an author.

Jane received a fellowship from the Organization of American Historians and the White House Historical Association in 2003 to conduct historical research on the White House, presidents, and first ladies. She can both “Sic’em” and “Gig’em,” receiving a bachelor’s degree from Baylor University and a master’s degree in higher education administration from Texas A&M University.

Jane lives with her husband and three sons in Fairfax, Virginia.



CAM EDWARDS
Host
Cam & Co., NRA News
[@CamEdwards](#)

Cam Edwards has hosted Cam & Co since it first debuted in 2004. Prior to joining NRA News, Edwards worked in television in Arkansas and was an acclaimed reporter, producer and host at a radio station in Oklahoma. Now into his second decade at Cam & Co, Edwards has cultivated a loyal legion of viewers who enjoy his analysis of firearm issues.

Edwards is also a shooter and a parent who is teaching his kids to be safe and responsible when it comes to firearms. “I’ve come to realize that we’re not just fighting for our right to keep and bear arms,” says Edwards, “we’re fighting for the right to raise our children as we see fit.”

In 2014, Edwards moved to Farmville, Virginia, where he lives on 40 acres and is exploring rural life. To hear his musings on farming, parenting, family and more, check out his weekly podcast on TheBlaze Radio Network: 40 Acres & a Fool.



SUSAN ENGEL
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Susan Engel’s practice covers both trial and appellate litigation in a wide range of substantive areas, including securities law, class action, commercial, and constitutional litigation.

Ms. Susan E. Engel serves as a Partner in the Kirkland & Ellis in the Washington, DC office. Her practice focuses on appellate litigation. She has participated in appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court, six U.S. Courts of Appeals, and numerous state courts. In addition, she has represented clients in a wide range of general matters, including cases concerning product liability, antitrust, intellectual property, healthcare, and securities law.

Prior to joining Kirkland, Ms. Engel served as a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court and Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She has a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science & History from Duke University. She is a member of the New York Bar and District of Columbia Bar and is admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, United States Court of Appeals for the 6th, 7th, 9th and 11th Circuits, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the Supreme Court of the United States.



SARAH FERRARA
 Coalitions Manager
 State Policy Network
 @sarahckeenan

Sarah Ferrara is the Coalitions Manager at the State Policy Network. In this role she highlights the work of the state think tanks and coordinates coalition efforts at the national level. She also manages the affiliate and associate membership programs and is a member of the Advance Policy Team, working on emerging issues in the states.

Prior to SPN, Sarah worked for the Manhattan Institute in the field of communications, marketing and outreach. She holds a Bachelor's degree in the area of politics, philosophy and economics from The King's College.



JULIE GUNLOCK
 Director of Culture of Alarmism
 Independent Women's Forum
 @JGunlock

Julie Gunlock is a Senior Fellow at the Independent Women's Forum and directs the organization's Culture of Alarmism Project. She is the author of the book *From Cupcakes to Chemicals: How the Culture of Alarmism Makes Us Afraid of Everything and How to Fight Back*.

Before joining IWF, Gunlock served as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and on the House Homeland Security Committee, and on the staffs of Ohio Senators Mike DeWine, George Voinovich, and Tom Coburn. Gunlock has written about food and culture for the New York Post, the Washington Post, New York Daily News, the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Forbes, U.S. News & World Report, The Washington Times, National Review Magazine, National Interest Magazine, the Tampa Tribune, and Townhall.com and is a regular contributor to National Review Online, BlogHer and Huffington Post. She has offered political commentary on Fox News, TheBlaze TV and other networks and is a regular guest on local, regional and national radio programs.

She lives in Virginia with her husband and three young, active, and perpetually hungry boys.



ERIN HAWLEY
 Legal Fellow
 Independent Women's Forum
 @IWF

Erin Morrow Hawley is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Missouri. Professor Hawley teaches constitutional litigation, federal income tax, tax policy, and agricultural law. Her scholarship focuses primarily on the federal courts and has been published in numerous top journals. Prior to joining the law school, she practiced appellate law at King & Spalding LLP and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, both in Washington, DC. She also worked at the Department of Justice as counsel to Attorney General Michael Mukasey.

Professor Hawley is a former clerk to Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. of the Supreme Court of the United States and Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Professor Hawley has litigated extensively before the Supreme Court of the United States as well as numerous federal courts of appeals and state courts of last resort. She has twice argued before the D.C. Court of Appeals and also represented the United States in oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Professor Hawley continues to litigate and her work has been widely quoted, including by the Washington Post and USNews.

Professor Hawley received her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University and her law degree from Yale Law School. During law school, she served as a Coker Fellow (teaching assistant in constitutional law) and on The Yale Law Journal.



CHARLOTTE HAYS
 Director of Cultural Programs and
 Senior Editor
 Independent Women's Forum
 @BeingDeadHays

Charlotte Hays is IWF's senior editor and director of cultural program.

Hays joined the Independent Women's Forum in 1999 as editor of The Women's Quarterly. When the quarterly evolved into our web operation, Hays became a senior editor.

Known for her quick and irreverent sense of humor, Hays has appeared on cable television programs such as Politically Incorrect, C-Span's Washington Journal, and PBS's To the Contrary. A former correspondent for the National Catholic Register and a feature writer at The Washington Times, Hays has been fascinated by politics since covering local politics for alternative weeklies in New Orleans. She is the author of *When Did White Trash Become the New Normal?: A Southern Lady Asks the Impertinent Question* and coauthor of three humorous books on southern culture, the first of which was the best-selling *Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral*. She is also author of *Fortune Hunters*, a book on what it takes to make a Midas marriage. Her work has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, New York magazine, the Washington Post's "Book World," and the Weekly Standard.

Hays has returned to IWF after several years of serving as editor of *In Character, A Journal of Everyday Virtues*, which was published by the John Templeton Foundation. Hays has been fascinated by politics since covering local politics for alternative weeklies in New Orleans.



HEATHER R. HIGGINS
 President and CEO
 Independent Women's Voice
 Chairman
 Independent Women's Forum
 @TheHRH

Heather Richardson Higgins is president and CEO of Independent Women's Voice. Ms. Higgins serves on the boards of the Independent Women's Forum (as chairman), the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and The Philanthropy Roundtable. In addition, she is on the NY board of UBS's mutual funds, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She was named as one of the "50 Most Influential People" by Campaigns & Elections magazine for her issue advocacy and as a leader who will influence future election cycles. Previously, Ms. Higgins was a portfolio manager and vice president at U.S. Trust. Prior to working in finance, she was an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal and assistant editor at the Public Interest magazine; Ms. Higgins continues to write opinion editorials and appears on a variety of radio and television programs.



JULIE KELLY
 Food/Agricultural Writer
 @Julie_Kelly2

Julie Kelly is a cooking teacher and food writer. Her background is in political consulting in Illinois as a policy and communications advisor to many elected officials and candidates. After taking ten years off to be a full-time mom, she got back into politics then started teaching cooking classes out of her home. This led to a new interest in food policy, including GMOs, the organic industry, federal food programs and the American food system in general. Over the past year, she has been published in the Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, Forbes, National Review Online, The Hill and Roll Call. She is a contributing writer for the Genetic Literacy Project. She lives in Orland Park, IL with her husband, John, and two daughters.



CAROLINE KITCHENS
 Outreach Associate and Policy Analyst
 R Street Institute
 @CL_Kitchens

Caroline Kitchens is an outreach associate and policy analyst with the R Street Institute.

Caroline joined R Street from the American Enterprise Institute, where she was a senior research associate in social and cultural studies. At AEI, she co-hosted a popular video blog, The Factual Feminist, with Christina Hoff Sommers and was the editor of AEI's Free-Market Feminist, a newsletter focused on issues facing women in the modern world. She also managed the book launch of bestselling author Charles Murray's *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*.

Her opinion pieces have appeared in outlets that include Time, U.S. News and World Report and National Review Online. Caroline is a native of northeastern Wisconsin and a graduate of Duke University, where she studied history and political science.



VICTORIA LIPNIC
 Commissioner
 U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity
 Commission

Victoria A. Lipnic has served as a Commissioner of the EEOC since 2010, having been nominated to serve by President Barack Obama, and confirmed by the Senate, initially for a term ending on July 1, 2015. President Obama nominated her to serve a second term ending on July 1, 2020, and she was confirmed by the Senate on November 19, 2015. Immediately before coming to the EEOC, Commissioner Lipnic was of counsel to the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw LLP in its Washington, DC, office.

Commissioner Lipnic brings to the EEOC a breadth of experience working with federal labor and employment laws, most recently as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards, a position she held from 2002 until 2009. In that position, she oversaw the Wage and Hour Division, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, and the Office of Labor Management Standards. Under her tenure, the Wage and Hour Division revised regulations regarding overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act, reissued regulations under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs issued new guidance and regulations for evaluating compensation discrimination.

Commissioner Lipnic earned a B.A. degree in Political Science and History from Allegheny College and a J.D. degree from George Mason University School of Law.



HADLEY HEATH MANNING
 Director of Health Policy
 Independent Women's Forum
 @HadleyHeath

Hadley Heath Manning is a senior policy analyst and director of health policy at the Independent Women's Forum. She frequently comments on health care, entitlements and economic policy, and manages IWF's health policy projects and publications.

Hadley appears frequently in radio and TV outlets across the country, including Fox Business' Stossel Show and Fox News' Your World with Neil Cavuto. Her work has been featured in publications including the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, POLITICO, Roll Call, Real Clear Policy, National Review Online and Huffington Post.

In 2016, Hadley was named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in Law and Policy. In 2015, the Republican National Committee honored Hadley as a Rising Star, and in 2014, she was named to the Red Alert Politics 30 Under 30 list. Hadley has also completed the National Review Institute's Washington Fellowship, class of 2012-2013.

Hadley graduated with distinction from the University of North Carolina in 2010 as a Morehead-Cain Scholar with a double major in economics and journalism. She now lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband.



CAREN MERRICK
 Founder and CEO
 Pocket Mentor
 @CDMerrick

Caren Merrick is the founder and CEO of Pocket Mentor, a mobile app and multimedia company providing leaders with daily advice, tools and action plans to succeed in work and life. For tips on how to communicate for greater success, download her free guide, 7 Secrets To Highly Effective Communications. Previously, Caren was the co-founder and EVP of the enterprise software company webMethods, which grew from a basement startup to a global Nasdaq company with \$200 million in annual revenue and 1,100 employees worldwide. Caren serves on several private equity, financial services and nonprofit boards, and is an author and speaker.



PATRICE LEE ONWUKA
 National Spokeswoman and
 Director of Outreach
 Generation Opportunity
 @PatricePinkFile

Patrice Lee Onwuka, a Senior Fellow at the Independent Women's Forum, is the Director of Outreach at Generation Opportunity where she works to promote economic opportunity for Millennials. Prior to joining GenOpp, Patrice worked at The Philanthropy Roundtable and the Fund for American Studies in policy and media roles. She also held consulting roles as a speech writer for a United Nations spokesman and a manager for a student travel program to South Africa.

Born in the Caribbean, Patrice immigrated with her family to Boston where she grew up and completed her education. She earned her bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Tufts University and a master's degree in international relations from Boston College. Patrice's unique background fuels her passion to defend freedom and faith in America.



NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY
 Columnist
 New York Post
 @NaomiSRiley

Naomi Schaefer Riley is a weekly columnist for the New York Post and a former Wall Street Journal editor and writer whose work focuses on higher education, religion, philanthropy and culture. She is the author, most recently, of *Got Religion?: How Churches, Mosques, and Synagogues Can Bring Young People Back* (Templeton Press, 2014) and *Opportunity and Hope: Transforming Children's Lives through Scholarships* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014). Her book, *Til Faith Do Us Part: How Interfaith Marriage is Transforming America* (Oxford, 2013), was named an editor's pick by the New York Times Book Review. She is also the author of *God on the Quad: How Religious Colleges and the Missionary Generation Are Changing America* (St. Martin's, 2005) and *The Faculty Lounges ... And Other Reasons Why You Won't Get the College Education You Pay For* (Ivan Dee, 2011). She is the co-editor of *Acculturated* (Templeton Press, 2010), a book of essays on pop culture and virtue.

Ms. Riley's writings have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the LA Times, and the Washington Post, among other publications. She appears regularly on FoxNews and FoxBusiness. She has also appeared on Q&A with Brian Lamb as well as the Today Show.

She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in English and Government. She lives in the suburbs of New York with her husband, Jason, and their three children.



JAMES ROSEBUSH

Former Senior Advisor to Ronald Reagan and Chief of Staff to Nancy Reagan
Reagan White House

James Rosebush is a widely recognized leader in building and managing corporate, wealth management, family office, and philanthropic organizations. For over twenty years he has been CEO of an international consulting firm, GrowthStrategy, Inc. advising on management strategies, finance, marketing, and communications, throughout the world.

In The White House Mr. Rosebush was President Reagan’s “point man” on philanthropy and public-private partnerships. As a commissioned senior advisor at The White House, he managed the President’s favorite domestic program called, PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES, designed to engender private sector solutions for public problems, a precursor of social impact investing.

Mr. Rosebush was also the longest-serving Chief of Staff to the First Lady. In this role, he was one of a small group of top aides to President Reagan and served as a member of the President’s historic Theme For The Day communications team. He managed all the official activities of the First Lady including press and media, scheduling, projects and policy (including the anti-drug campaign), as well as the official functions held in The White House.

He is the author of a new book on the life of President Ronald Reagan entitled *True Reagan: What Made Ronald Reagan Great and Why it Matters*.

He has an MA degree in Public Affairs from Boston University and a BA in Business from The Principia College. He has lectured and taught as an adjunct professor at Georgetown and George Washington Universities on corporate public issues and the history of philanthropy.



DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH

Senior Fellow
Director of Economics21
Manhattan Institute
[@FurchtgottRoth](#)

Diana Furchtgott-Roth is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, director of the Institute’s e21 program, and a columnist for MarketWatch.com and Tax Notes. During 2003–05, she was chief economist of the U.S. Department of Labor. In 2001–02, Furchtgott-Roth was chief of staff of President George W. Bush’s Council of Economic Advisers. During 1991–93, she was deputy executive director of the White House Domestic Policy Council and associate director of the Office of Policy Planning under President George H. W. Bush. Furchtgott-Roth was an economist on the staff of President Reagan’s Council of Economic Advisers in 1986–87.

Furchtgott-Roth is coauthor, with Jared Meyer, of *Disinherited: How Washington Is Betraying America’s Young* (2015). She is the author of *Women’s Figures: An Illustrated Guide to the Economic Progress of Women in America* (2012); *Regulating to Disaster: How Green Jobs Policies Are Damaging America’s Economy* (2012); *How Obama’s Gender Policies Undermine America* (2010); and *The Feminist Dilemma: When Success Is Not Enough* (2001). She is the editor of *Overcoming Barriers to Entrepreneurship in the United States* (2008). Her articles have been published in the New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, Investor’s Business Daily, Los Angeles Times, and Le Figaro.

Furchtgott-Roth is a frequent guest on Fox Business News and BBC’s Business Matters and has appeared on numerous other TV and radio shows, including CNBC’s Larry Kudlow Show and C-SPAN’s Washington Journal. She holds a B.A. in economics from Swarthmore College and an M.Phil. in economics from Oxford University.



SABRINA SCHAEFFER
Executive Director
Independent Women’s Forum
[@SL_Schaeffer](#)

Sabrina L. Schaeffer is the executive director of the Independent Women’s Forum. Since her mother sent her Wendy Shalit’s *A Return to Modesty* while in college, she’s been borderline obsessed with persuading other women that a culture of liberty and responsibility is good for everyone, women in particular.

Sabrina has extensive experience in communications, from behind the scenes to in front of the camera. She has conducted sophisticated academic and applied research on persuasion, speech writing in the U.S. Senate, communications at a major non-profit, public relations at a D.C. consulting firm, and media relations in a primary campaign.

But by far her most formative work experience was her first, as a young assistant to Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick while at the American Enterprise Institute. Ambassador Kirkpatrick taught her more than a thing or two about being a real feminist.

Sabrina received an M.A. in Politics as well as an M.A. in American History from the University of Virginia, where she focused on the early Republic (history) and media effects and political behavior (politics), conducting a message experiment exploring how different arguments for social security reform impacted public opinion.

Sabrina has commented on politics and political culture in publications such as Forbes, The Weekly Standard, The Washington Times, Foxnews.com, National Review Online, Policy Review, and American Enterprise Online.

Sabrina is a regular on TV news programs - you can catch Sabrina every Saturday at 11am on Forbes on Fox, and every week on Fox Business’ *After the Bell*.



ASHE SCHOW
Commentary Writer
Washington Examiner
[@AsheSchow](#)

Ashe Schow is a Commentary Writer for the Washington Examiner and senior political columnist for the New York Observer. Previously, she worked as an editor and writer for the Heritage Foundation and Heritage Action for America.

A Florida Native, she graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing.



PETER WEHNER
Senior Fellow
Ethics and Public Policy Center

@Peter_Wehner

Peter Wehner is a Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. He writes widely on political, cultural, religious, and national-security issues. He has written for numerous publications—including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Financial Times, the Weekly Standard, Commentary, National Affairs, Christianity Today and Time magazine. In 2015 he was named a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times and he contributes regularly to Commentary magazine’s blog “Daily Commentary.” He has also appeared as a commentator on Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, and C-SPAN television and appears frequently on national talk radio programs. In 2011 Forbes magazine featured Mr. Wehner on a short list of conservatism’s leading “educators and practitioners of first principles.” He was described this way: “Author, commentator, problem solver, prolific, daily provider of concise, reasoned, artful analysis and argument; gentle giant of a thinker at the intersection of politics and policy.” He has been named by several magazines as one of the handful of most influential reform-minded conservatives.

Mr. Wehner served in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations prior to becoming deputy director of speechwriting for President George W. Bush. In 2002, he was asked to head the Office of Strategic Initiatives, where he generated policy ideas, reached out to public intellectuals, published op-eds and essays, and provided counsel on a range of domestic and international issues. He was also a senior adviser to the Romney-Ryan 2012 presidential campaign.

Mr. Wehner is author of *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era* (co-authored with Michael J. Gerson) and *Wealth and Justice: The Morality of Democratic Capitalism* (co-authored with Arthur C. Brooks).



GENEVIEVE WOOD
Senior Correspondent
The Daily Signal

@GenevieveWood

Genevieve Wood is a leading voice for The Heritage Foundation as senior fellow in communications and senior contributor to The Daily Signal, the think tank’s multimedia news organization.

Wood is a founding team member of The Daily Signal, which provides conservative opinion as well as news and analysis of policy and political matters. She produces regular commentary in text and on video, interviews elected officials and other newsmakers on camera, and makes major media appearances.

Wood also represents Heritage and The Daily Signal at events around the country to explain and promote conservative public policy solutions to the issues of the day.

Wood’s media appearances include CNN, MSNBC and Fox News Channel and programs such as CBS’s “Face the Nation,” NBC’s “Today,” C-SPAN’s “Washington Journal,” and HBO’s “Real Time With Bill Maher.” She has been a regular panelist on PBS’s “To the Contrary.”

A native of Texarkana, Texas, Wood holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the College of Charleston in South Carolina. She resides in Washington, D.C.

IWF is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) research and educational institution. By aggressively seeking earned media, providing easy-to-read, timely publications and commentary, and reaching out to the public, we seek to cultivate support for these important principles and encourage women to join us in working to return the country to limited, Constitutional government.



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We encourage posting to social media during the summit. Tag [@IWF](https://twitter.com/IWF) and use [#womenLEAD](https://twitter.com/hashtag/womenLEAD)

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